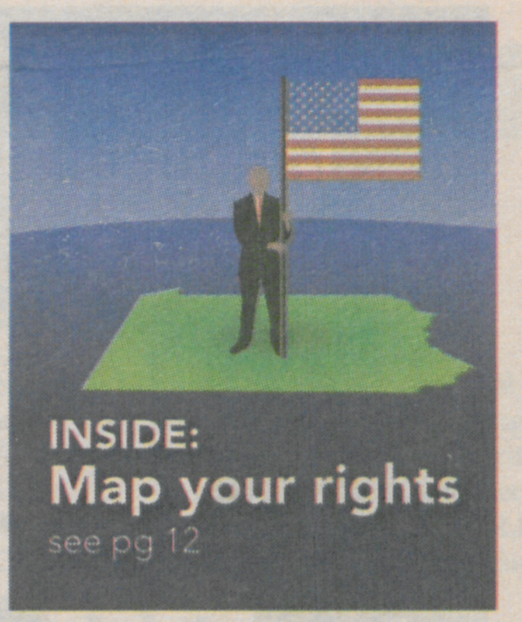
central VOICE



FREE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

Central Voice Moves Virtual

...”a great way to make new friends.”
-CV Blogger Todd Marsh

“...a brilliant idea!”
- Alanna Berger,
The Pride Festival of Central PA
& Silent Witness PA.

“I joined the web site. I’m glad you’re taking the lead on a project like this. I think Internet stuff is the way to go,” says Mark Smith, Pride Parade Committee Chair. Already described by end-users as “MySpace or FaceBook for the region’s glbt community, only easier to use,” Central Voice’s new virtual community is a hit.

Smith

“This new web site is a brilliant idea!” says Alanna Berger, The Pride Festival of Central PA & Silent Witness PA.

Called *thecentralvoice.ning.com*, the easy to use web site allows for fluid and instantaneous communication between and among members. Individuals and organizations “join” the community. Users are free to upload all kinds of information – photographs, video, text, and events. The site is completely member driven with additional news, feature, and event posts placed by Central Voice and blasted out to members in a timely manner.

Members are also free to start blogs, discussions, and forums on topics of their choice. There’s even a way for individual members and organizations to send an E-Vite to all members for events, fund raisers, and plain old parties. “I’ve already used the site to invite people to Club XS events,” says Charles Oswald, Club XS manager and Black & White Benefit Organizer. It took less than a minute,” says Oswald, a familiar face on the local fundraising scene.

Oswald

Organizations can be members of the web site and can list their mission statement and create a “hotlink” back to their own web sites.

“What a great way to connect with those in the community you may have never met. Terrific way to keep informed about what is happening in the community,” says Jeff Clouser, President, Board of Directors Pride Festival of Central PA.

Clouser

Clouser sees the potential of the new resource. “I would like to be able to submit information in my profile that would help me network with others in the community. Sort of

Continued on page 12 >

Rev. O’Diam Resigns MCC Post

By Frank Pizzoli

Following a vote of confidence she called for herself, Rev. Eva O’Diam, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit has resigned her post.

“It’s obvious to me the church is at place where they need someone beyond what I can offer,” O”Diam said. She served as pastor for the last 17 years. When she accepted the church’s leadership bid in 1991, the congregation numbered 40 and met in the Quaker Meeting House near Broad Street Market. As she makes her departure, expected by late February, the group now numbers 110.

See video of Rev. O’Diam on thecentralvoice.ning.com

“We’re on solid financial footing and within three years of paying off our building mortgage,” O’Diam says, making reference to the church’s facility at 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg. Each Sunday the church offers worship services at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. in order to meet the needs of a busy congregation. In the absence of a community center, the facility has also doubled as a convenient meeting space for Central PA Pride Festival and other venues as well hosting a monthly dinner for people living with HIV organized by the church’s Social Justice Committee.

“I set my vote of confidence with a goal of reaching an 80 % approval rating. Not having achieved that mark it is my decision to leave,” she explains. “Even if

Continued on page 12 >

Rainbow Shorts see p. 15

Working Like Dogs see p. 22

I ♥ Art see p. 21

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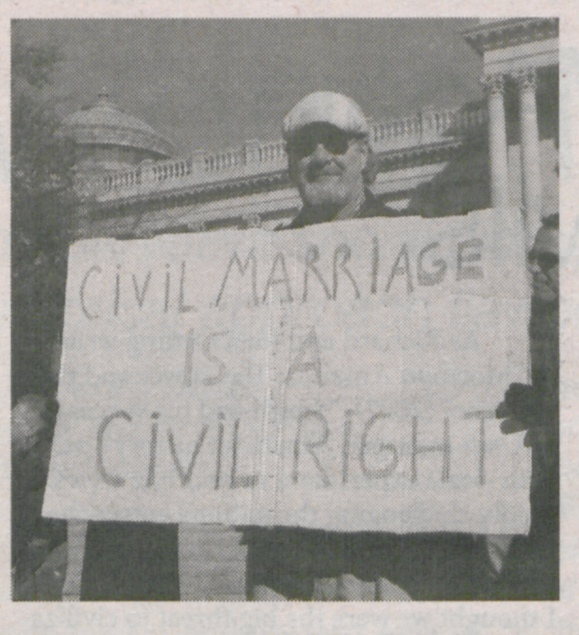
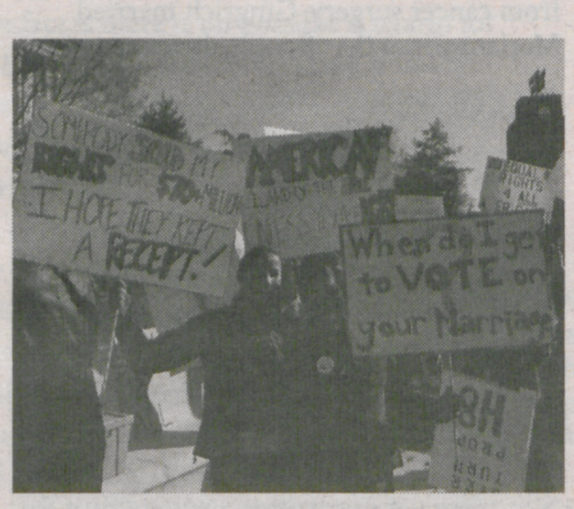


Local Prop. 8 Demonstration Drew Wide Crowd

See Prop. 8 – The Musical at thecentralvoice.ning.com

In response to CA's Prop. 8, Harrisburg hosted a "Join the Impact" Demonstration Nov. 23 on the steps of the state capitol. Remarks were made to about 150 people by Rev. Eva O'Diam, MCC of the Spirit Pastor; Ted Martin & Dwayne Heckert, who were married in CA; Alanna Berger; Mark Smith, Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania Parade Chair; Harrisburg City Councilman Dan Miller plus interviews with people in the crowd.

Supporting Groups: CARE- Community Alliance for Respect and Equality; Susquehanna University's WomenSpeak; Capital Region Stonewall Democrats; HACC's Alternative Youth Alliance; Susquehanna University Democrats; Central PA LGBT Center Coalition; Bucknell University's FLAG&BT; Pride Festival of Central PA; Rainbow EqUUality Advocates; West Chester's LGBTQA; Philadelphia Gay News; Marriage Equality USA; PA Diversity Network; Elizabethtown's GSA; Penn College's GSA; Lancaster PA Pride; Miss Drag All-Star; Central Voice; MCC of the Spirit; TransCentral PA; Lavender Letter; Panzee Press; HACC Allies; Liquid 891; S.H.A.R.E.; Club XS. Panzee Press' Bolton K. Winpenny served as master of ceremonies.



Jeffrey Clouser Receives Diversity Award

Jeffrey Clouser, Sovereign Community Banking Assistant Manager at the Lebanon Plaza office, was recently presented with the 2008 Learners Permit Award by Sovereign Bank's Office of Diversity and Inclusion during a Diversity Business Council Leadership Seminar in Boston, Mass.

The Learners Permit Award is presented to individuals who have committed at least two years of their time to the Diversity Business Council; recognize and suggest efforts towards building an inclusive workplace; demonstrate behavior that illustrates inclusion of all groups; attends and stays involved in monthly meetings; and shows commitment and contribution to integrating elements of the Diversity Strategic Plan into the company culture.

"Jeff has always been supportive of the Diversity Council," said Lynn Frampton, Assistant Vice President of Sovereign's Office of Diversity & Inclusion. "He has a great focus on community activities and events through volunteering and leading them, such as the Harrisburg Pride event."

Clouser has been with Sovereign since 2005, implementing sales and marketing processes, ensuring operational integrity and coaching and training team members. In addition to his responsibilities with the bank, Clouser is involved with many groups and associations, including the Silent Witnesses of Central PA, the Pride Festival of Central PA, Common Roads and the Lancaster Symphony Chorus.

Steve Kozokas New Central Voice Account Executive

Steve Kozokas

Steve Kozokas joined the Central Voice team as Account Executive last November.

"I worked more than 10 years selling advertising for Yellow Book USA, a telephone directory publisher. We created phone books that were more user-friendly and covered better geographic areas compared to the utility company's products. Kozokas also consulted with businesses on a personal level to develop advertising programs that were both sales effective and cost effective.

"I have a very good reputation of keeping customers happy through both good and bad times," Kozokas says. He is a Bloomsburg University graduate (1992) with a B.S. in Business and Marketing.

Known as "DJ Steve "Hi-Fi," Kozokas has five years experience spinning tunes at two gay campgrounds. "I've worked at The Woods Campground in the Lehigh Valley, the first person to DJ there," he says. Kozokas did theme weekends including Leather, 70's Disco, Christmas in July, Halloween, and Bears at the Woods. He was the Karaoke DJ too. "I also did more than 1,000 hours of DJing at Hillside Campgrounds in Gibson, PA, living on the premises and coordinating events, parties, and stage shows.

"I love to travel to gay destinations," Kozokas says. Having my own DJ business with seasonal work has allowed me to take advantage of travel to see the US. Two winters ago Kozokas spent 30 days in Palm Springs California living on the same street as Barry Manilow and Suzanne Summers. Another 30 day trip was to Key West Florida, where he stayed at The New Orleans House gay hotel on Duval Street.

I'm looking forward to being of service to Central Voice's many faithful clients," Kozokas says.

find more community voice on page 5

HIV in the Region - Want to help?

There are 1.1 million infected US citizens. Alarmingly, one-quarter of them don't even know it. Harrisburg represents the second highest number of HIV infections outside of Philadelphia. Although it's no longer a death sentence - depending where you live on the planet - HIV still claims 15,000 Americans lives each year.

"Women now represent slightly more than 43% of our active case load," says AIDS Community Alliance CEO Phil Goropoulos.

The number of HIV diagnoses has been increasing steadily since 2001. More sophisticated "look back" tracing methods have forced The Centers for Disease Control to adjust its annual estimate of new infections from 40,000 to 53-56,300.

Black & White Party, Club XS
May 1, 2009

Club XS, York – Join about 1,500 partiers for an unforgettable evening of fun, food, auction, and dancing. www.clubxsyork.com

AIDS Community Alliance

ACA hosts several popular benefits. Proceeds help people living with HIV.

Art for AIDS - Bowl and Berries, March 21, 2009

AIDS Walk – Watch for date in late April 2009

Mini Golf Challenge 2009 – Watch for date in August 2009

Dine Out 2009 – Sept. 23, 2009

Wine Tour 2009 – Watch for date in September 2009

Contact 717-233-7190 or 800.867.1550; www.aca-pa.com.

The AIDS Fund of South Central PA

See what regional fundraising and grantmaking efforts are spearheaded through The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (formerly greater Harrisburg Foundation) at tfec.org. Consider attending a Party with a Purpose to raise funds for HIV/AIDS.

Call 236-5040 for dates.

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publisher's note

We're Demons Again for the Real Devils

Frank Pizzoli

Make no mistake about it, we're demons again for the real devils.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich recently said on air to Bill O'Reilly "Look, I think there is a gay and secular fascism in this country that wants to impose its will on the rest of us, is prepared to use violence. . . . I think that it is a very dangerous threat to anybody who believes in traditional religion. And I think if you believe in historic Christianity, you have to confront the fact."

Besides our ability to destroy Western Civilization and marriage, now we're "violent."

Gingrich acknowledged, reported by The Washington Post and other media, that he was having an extramarital affair even as he led the charge against President Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky affair. "The honest answer is yes," said Gingrich, a potential 2008 Republican presidential candidate, in an interview with Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, according to a transcript provided to The Associated Press.

Gingrich argued in the interview, however, that he should not be viewed as a hypocrite for pursuing Clinton's infidelity. Gossip about extramarital affairs has followed him for years. They stem from two messy divorces that he refuses to discuss publicly.

A frequent flyer in the family values campaign, Gingrich divorced his second wife, Marianne, in 2000 after his attorneys acknowledged Gingrich's relationship with his current wife, Callista Bisek, a former congressional aide more than 20 years younger than he is.

In 1981, he ended his first marriage to his former high school geometry teacher, Jackie Battley. Although Gingrich has said he doesn't remember it, Battley has said Gingrich discussed divorce terms with her while she was recuperating in the hospital from cancer surgery. Gingrich married Marianne months after the divorce.

> Not devoted to the proposition that all men (and women) are created equal –
>
> *Changes California Constitution to eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry. Provides that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.*
>
> **—Ballot summary, Proposition 8.**

Next we have the Mormons.

Does anyone else think it's odd a group that for most of its 200 year history practiced marrying many people spent $22 million to deny us the right to marry one person? That makes them experts in who should be legally entitled to marry whom?

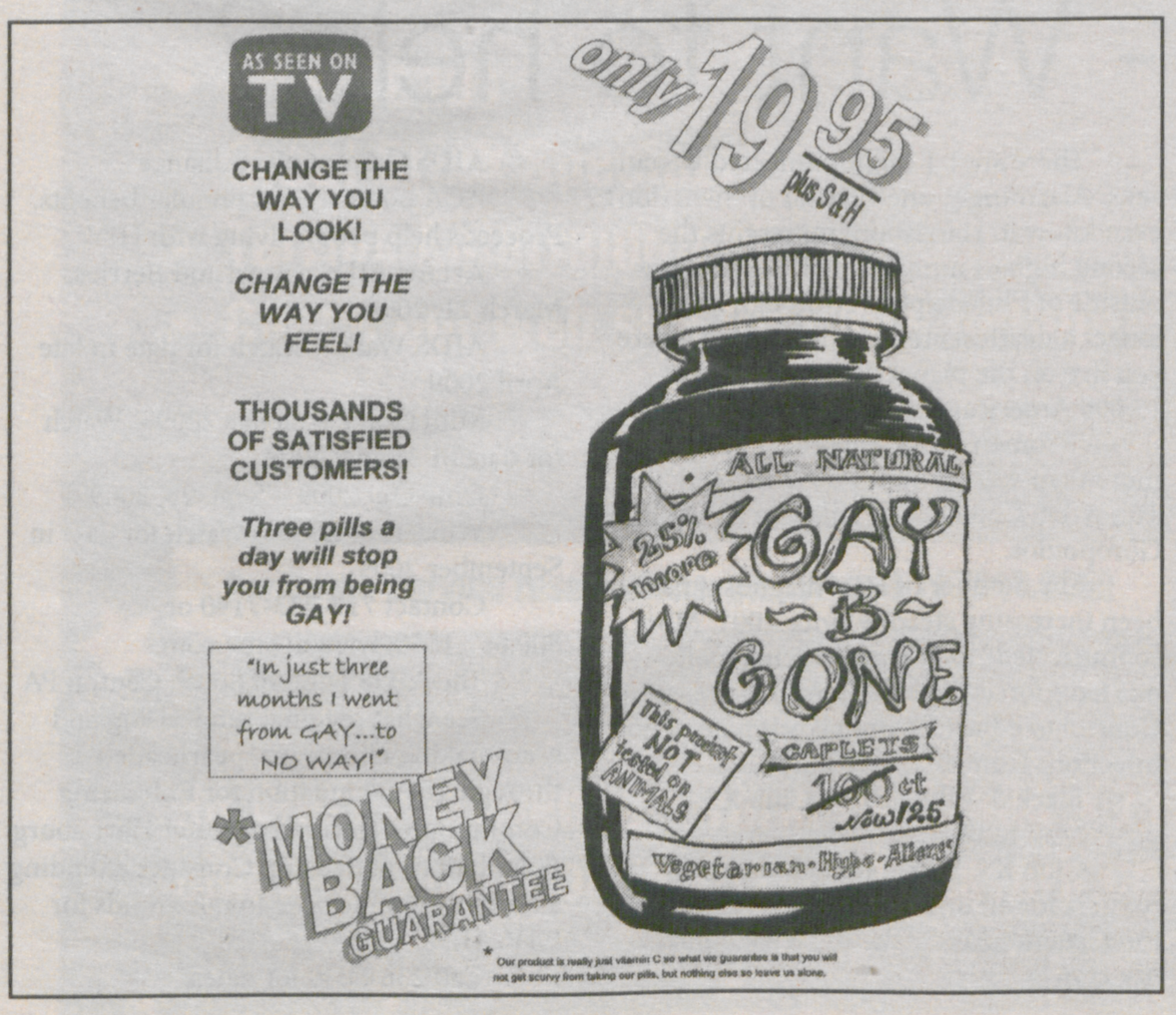
The original Latter-day Saint, Joseph Smith, acquired at least 28 and perhaps, by some accounts 60 wives, some of them in their early teens, before he was lynched, in 1844, at age thirty-eight. Brigham Young, Smith's immediate successor, was a bridegroom 20 times over, and his successors, along with much of the male Mormon elite, kept up the mass marrying until the 1930s, decades after the Mormon Church had officially disavowed polygamy, the price of Utah's admission to the Union, in 1896.

As Richard and Joan Ostling write in "Mormon America: The Power and the Promise" (2007), "Smith and his successors in Utah managed American history's only wide-scale experiment in multiple wives, boldly challenging the nation's entrenched family structure and the morality of Western Judeo-Christian culture." I'm confused. I thought we were the big threat to civilization as we know it.

From 1998 to 2006, bans on same-sex marriage were put on the ballot in one state or another 30 times, and 29 times the people voted for them. This year, in addition to California, Florida passed a ban; Arizona, which in 2006 had been the one exception, reversed itself and did the same. Arkansas approved a ballot measure depriving gay men and lesbians of the right to adopt children.

Currently, large majorities of Americans favor laws under which same-sex couples have all or most of the same rights as couples of opposite sexes, and five states, including California, have enacted them. Gay marriage itself is legal in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

In 1993, most Americans thought that open homosexuals shouldn't be permitted to serve in the military. Now three-quarters think that they should. And the polls show that the younger you are the more likely you are to favor equal treatment of gays and straights in every area of public and private life. The Field Poll, one of California's most respected, found last month that while the state's over 65 population oppose gay marriage by a 30 point margin, the under 35 group favor it by 13 points—and it's hard to think of a reason that getting older should change their minds. So, as we look toward 2009, there is hope, even if Newt Gingrich has his head up his marriage and thinks we're fascist.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voice box

From the Editor - My Sincere Apology

In our Sept-Oct 08 issue, I wrote a story on what people thought fueled Midtown Harrisburg crime. I asked a number of players to put their spin on the recent rash of crimes in that neighborhood. In the story, I used the phrase "paddy wagons" to describe a police round up of suspects. One reader wrote in that "as a gay American of Irish decent" he (or she, there was no way to tell from the hand-written letter) was very offended by my use of that phrase. The writer explained that the term "harkens back to the day when the police would send their officers into Irish neighborhoods to pick up the "paddys," i.e Irish people. The reader reminded me that I "would never consider using a term with "wop" or "spic" or the "n-word"". No, I wouldn't, unless, of course, it was in the course of quoting someone. That was clearly not the case with my chosen term "paddy wagon" in my story. I take full responsibility for use of the term and regret that it offended one of our readers. I'd send this apology to the reader directly, but the reader left no contact information in their hand-written letter.

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

Words Matter

Conservative social principles sound, rhetorical approach flawed

By Lowman S. Henry
Lincoln Institute of Public Opinion Research

In the wake of the second wave of substantial Republican losses from President on down to legislative seats, some in the GOP are suggesting it is time for the party to abandon its traditional support of conservative principles, with social issues most often mentioned as an area ripe for change.

Which raises the question: what part of the Republican social issues agenda should be left by the wayside? Should the party cease to support the right to life and embrace a pro-abortion agenda? How about those religious fundamentalists? Who cares that the republic was built upon a strong belief in the almighty? Has God become such a liability He should be replaced by a more secular agenda?

The winning coalition that propelled the Reagan-Gingrich era of GOP control was a three-legged stool that included social conservatives, economic conservatives, and strong national defense advocates. Bound together, these constituencies elected Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush to the White House and sized control of Congress in 1994 for the first time in a generation or two.

It can be argued that much of the GOP's current sorry state is directly attributable to its sell-out on the economic front. After gaining control of both Congress and the Presidency, Republicans abandoned their fiscally conservative principles. The apex (or nadir) of that betrayal came in October when, as the economy went into the tank, polls showed – and the election bore out – that voters now view Democrats as more able stewards of the economy than Republicans. Worse, mismanagement of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan left Republicans vulnerable on national defense issues as well. Thus, Republicans were left with but one leg on their coalition stool. And even that went wobbly as the party's standard bearer, John McCain, was viewed with suspicion or even outright contempt by the socially conservative wing of the GOP.

To suggest the GOP "moderate" its stance on social issues betrays a fundamental lack of understanding the components of the Republican electoral coalition. How, for example, would dropping the party's support for life expand its coalition? The pro-lifers would walk, likely to a third party. Democrats have historically laid claim to the pro-abortion vote, so there is little to be gained there. The result would be a net loss of support for future Republican candidates. The fact is there is no possible scenario for re-building the Republican coalition that does not include overwhelming support from social issues conservatives and the party's religious base.

However, the growing chorus of calls for the GOP to abandon social conservatives is reason to pause and think about why this is so. I would argue the problem is not with the principles themselves – they are sound. Rather, the disconnect results from the implementation of those principles. Specifically, it flows from the language and from the tone of the debate.

your voice

As a social conservative, I am frequently appalled at the negative and angry rhetoric which often characterizes social issues policy discussions. Commentary and arguments tend to be preachy and self-righteous; seeking to demean rather than to uplift. This is a pity because the doctrine of social conservatism is, at its core, positive and fulfilling. Christians especially should keep in mind the approach that Jesus took in his teachings. He did not condemn, instead He sought to redeem. It is a means of conversion worth emulating.

Rather than abandon social issues, Republicans should re-embrace them – but change the rhetoric used to frame the debate to a more positive form. A good example is the pro-life slogan: "Choose Life," which is much more positive and effective than "Stop Abortion." The change must go much further than words. Rather than wave photos of dead fetuses, activists' time would be better spent volunteering for programs that assist pregnant women.

The socially conservative principles that form the bedrock of the Republican Party are worth preserving, both as an approach to living and as a winning political strategy. The GOP, and the nation, will be better off if those social conservatives who claim the sky is falling every time an issue arises change their approach. Instead, we need to place the emphasis on the positive impact abiding by such principles will have on our individual lives and ultimately upon society as a whole.

Great Past, Better Future for Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania

"We had a great 2008 Pride Festival with approximately 5,000 people in attendance," says new Pride Festival Committee chair Donald Anklam. Anklam expressed appreciation for the faithful service by David Walker who recently stepped down from the demanding volunteer job after serving as chair for 2006-2008.

On Saturday morning, the largest ever 3rd Annual PrideFest Unity parade had 45 marching units, including three marching bands. Winners of this year's parade competition were: Grand Marshal Award: Brownstone Lounge; Parade Committee Award: Stallions; Community Choice Award: Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. David Payne, in recognition of his many years of volunteer work for the GLBT community, served as Grand Marshal.

The Pride Festival of Central PA Board President, Jeffrey Clouser, recently released its report to the community for the 2008 Pride Festival held July 25-27. On July 25, The Voices United Concert entertained 135 people at Market Square Presbyterian Church.

The Pride Festival, held in Riverfront Park, was larger than ever. 102 vendors/exhibitors hosting booths were available for the approximately 5,000 individuals who participate in the Festival's activities.

On Sunday evening, approximately 200 people attended the Spirits United service held at Market Square Presbyterian Church. Representatives from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Unitarian Universalist faith traditions shared prayers, readings, and messages with the audience. Spirits United began in 2007 and was first hosted by the MCC of the Spirit. Mark Smith, chair of the 2008 Spirits United Celebration reports that this activity has now been turned over to the religious community for further development under the coordination of Marlene Kanuck.

In September, a new board was elected and committee chairs appointed for the 2009 Pride season: Executive Board: Jeffrey Clouser, President; Alanna Berger, Vice-President; Tammy Cassel, Communications; Diana Kuhns, Treasurer. Board Members At Large: Donald Anklam, Dale Schauer, Yvonne Small and Mark Smith. Committee Chairs: Donald Anklam, Pride Committee; Mark Smith, Parade Committee; Alanna Berger, Operations; Diana Kuhns, Fundraising & Development; Sub-

continued on page 6

letters to the editor

HIV
The HIV story was so revealing. We need to address this issue more in the region, especially Harrisburg City.
George

Smoking
Our community sure does smoke a lot. Maybe a new play – Sir Smokealot?
Sarah

Susquehanna & Pride
I never realized the Susquehanna River was so sick as a rivers go. Maybe since Pride is held along the river each year, our community, in a gesture that says we're more than just a bunch of rainbows, could help out somehow?
Biker Guy

Cartoon
Love, love, love the last cartoon. The one about reaching out to someone different. For all our shouting about our civil rights, our community seems to always do numbers on each other. We love our drama between groups.
A Reader

Grace UCC Seeks New Music Director

Lancaster's Grace United Church of Christ seeks a Director of Music. Grace UCC is an open and affirming church and accepts all persons, of any race or sexual preference. The progressive and welcoming congregation seeks a musician with strong skills in diverse musical styles who can serves as accompanist for all services and director of choirs. This is an opportunity for teamwork, creativity, growth. Send resume to graceucc@comcast.net, attention: Search Committee. Grace United Church of Christ, 1947 New Holland Pike, Lancaster PA 17601; 717-397-1012.

Pride Festival con'td

Committee Chairs: Dale Schauer, Vendors; Justin Bacon, Volunteers; Stephen Weiland, Website Design & Marketing; Entertainment, Miss Biscuit; Voices United, Paul Foltz; Spirits United, Marlene Kanuck.

The Pride Festival of Central PA is pleased to make a $2,500 donation to the Easch-Potter Scholarship. This scholarship fund had been established under the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg (GLSH) for the purpose of providing scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth. After several years of inactivity, the Scholarship is now under the direction of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC). All endowment funds of the Foundation are required to have at least $10,000 in assets before they can be self-sustaining and begin to make distributions as designated by their governing body, in this instance Common Roads and the LGBT Center Coalition. Jeff Clouser, President of the Board for the Pride Festival of Central PA, also challenged the board to raise enough funds to make another $2,500 contribution to the scholarship fund in 2009.

The Pride Festival of Central PA Committee is now making plans for the next several years which will mark milestones in GLBT history. 2009 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the event which started the modern day gay rights movement and the tradition of Pride Festivals. Two years later, 2011, will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Pride Festival in the mid-state, currently known as the Pride Festival of Central PA.

Planning is already underway for the 2009 Festival. The Committee recently renewed its membership with Interpride, an international organization of Pride Festivals. In keeping with the Interpride movement, the Pride Festival of Central PA has designated the international theme of "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights" as the theme for the 2009 festival.

The Pride Festival of Central PA is excited about plans for 2009 festival. A fundraising goal of $70,000 has been set. This financial goal will enable the Pride Festival of Central PA to provide greater programming for the 2009 festival and parade and to continue toward becoming an independent non-profit organization.

The Pride Festival of Central PA can be contacted at: PO Box 12083, Harrisburg, PA 17108-2083 or by e-mail at info@harrisburgpride.org. Please be sure to visit our website at www.harrisburgpride.org. Donations of any amount are truly appreciated. Questions or additional information, contact: Mark Smith at saturnlvr@comcast.net or call 985-9459 evenings, 329-8070 day.

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lesbian notions

Political IQ - The Future of LGBT America

By Diane Silver

What comes after the staggering losses of Nov. 4?

When I saw a photo of Proposition 8 supporters celebrating their victory over marriage equality in California, I was enraged. I wanted to run howling into the street. I felt the urge to break, smash, and destroy with all my might.

Those happy people with their fists pumped in the air were partying because the right to marry had been taken from same-sex couples in California. Those pro-Proposition 8 folks were celebrating because the children of same-sex couples were now less secure. Those people were ecstatic because the next day children of same-sex couples throughout America would awake to learn, once again, that their families were reviled.

Victory parties celebrating the destruction of the rights of LGBT Americans didn't just happen in California. Anti-equality forces in Florida wrote a ban against same-sex marriage into that state's constitution. Arizona voters also added a marriage ban to their constitution only two years after defeating a similar proposal.

In Arkansas, voters passed a provision prohibiting lesbians, gays, and single heterosexuals from fostering or adopting children. This law means that Arkansas children in need will be denied homes. This also means that children raised by same-sex couples risk being orphaned if the non-custodial parent dies. If a child's biological mother is killed in an accident, for example, the surviving mother would be barred from adopting her own child.

These electoral defeats will create crushing hardships in the lives of many Americans. To deny our fury and pain is to ignore the reality of what voters did to us. These are raw wounds, and we need to acknowledge that fact and give ourselves time to heal.

But the future of LGBT America will depend on what we do afterwards. If we give in to despair or allow our actions to be governed by rage, then our opponents will have won more than a series of votes.

Despairing would cut the heart out of the LGBT movement. Volunteers would stay home, and donors wouldn't provide the financial contributions that make political work possible.

Allowing ourselves to be ruled by rage would be equally disastrous. The outlines of this were quickly visible as the LGBT blogosphere lit up on Nov. 4 and 5 with a search for whom to blame.

Frantic bloggers threw around numerous charges. Was it the African Americans who came to the polls in unprecedented numbers to vote for Barack Obama and then voted against LGBT rights? Was it the Mormon Church that pumped millions into the antigay propositions? Was it Obama himself who didn't cut a commercial for us? Was it the governors who didn't campaign hard enough for us, or the rich and famous lesbians and gays who didn't donate enough? Was it our own leaders who didn't run effective campaigns or come up with compelling messages?

Searching for scapegoats is soul-destroying, which is bad enough, but from a political perspective, it is self-defeating because it obscures reality.

Mistakes were made in the pro-equality campaigns, as they are in every campaign. The LGBT movement does need to review what happened, particularly in California, and to recalibrate. However, it doesn't need to call its leaders villains or to engage in a nasty internal fight that will make it weaker.

Seventy percent of African Americans in California did vote for Proposition 8, but they make up such a minority of voters that they alone did not swing the outcome. More importantly, the LGBT movement's weakness in the African-American community is a sign that it needs to build bridges, not a sign that it needs to attack.

The Mormon Church did fund much of the anti-equality battle in California, Arizona, and Florida, but many individual Mormons also stood with us. Attacking all Mormons would paint us as bigots and turn away voters who could help us in the future.

The search for scapegoats also obscures our triumphs. The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund reports that 70 percent of its 111 openly LGBT candidates won.

These include Jared Polis of Colorado who became the first openly gay man elected to Congress as a non-incumbent, and Kate Brown who was elected Secretary of State in Oregon. Brown becomes the second-highest ranking elected official in her state and the first openly LGBT Secretary of State in the nation. Brown's victory is particularly important because the office of Secretary of State can act as a launching pad for a run for governor or Congress.

Civil rights are never won easily. The quest for equality can often seem like a clumsy dance, where every step forward is countered by a stumble or two backward. But this country is changing.

Connecticut begins marrying same-sex couples this month. In a nation where slavery was once written into the Constitution, an African American was just elected president. Even the battle over Proposition 8 isn't done. The American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal Defense, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights have already filed suit to block the proposal from taking effect.

Nov. 4 didn't turn out the way we wanted, but the moment will come when LGBT Americans are the ones punching our fists into the air in victory. Have hope.

Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose freelance writing has appeared in Ms. magazine, Salon.com, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com.

thecentralvoice.ning.com

Easy to Use – Member Driven

Completely member driven with news updates posted by Central Voice, thecentralvoice.ning.com has easy to use web site functions indicated across the top of the Main Page.

INVITE
Want to E-Vite friends to an event or a party? Click on the Invite function. Don't worry, we won't save your password and you'll get a chance to choose which friends to email. Members can import email lists from their own web address books (which stay confidential, we don't see them).

MY PAGE
Members personal "My Page" allows for endless customization of the look of their page. Functions and graphic themes can be easily added and changed at any time.

MEMBERS
The Members Page lists each member from most recent to least recent with a hotlink to each member page. From member pages, other members can send private email messages. Other posts and messages to members can be made public. Members are in complete control of their information and can even "approve" messages before they post to the public.

PHOTOS
All web site photos are collected for viewing under this single-click tab. Members may view photos as a slideshow, select each photo for viewing or search for photos. Photos can be named and customized or auto-numbered.

VIDEOS
Videos can be uploaded by members with use of hotlinks or HTML code. Videos can be titled and there's space to describe. When sampling videos, members may list by Most Popular, Top Rated, Random, or Latest.

FORUM
Forums are member established and driven. Any and all members are welcomed and allowed with no prior approval required to open and/or respond to Forum postings.

EVENTS
The Events Calendar is free and is visible on the Main Page and as a separate single-click tab.

GROUPS
Groups are member established and driven. Any and all members are welcomed and allowed with no prior approval required to open and/or respond to Group postings.

BLOGS
What we do without blogs and bloggers? All Blogs are member established and driven. Any and all members are welcomed and allowed with no prior approval required to open and/or respond to Group postings.

CHAT
The Chat Function appears on the Main Page and is easy to open and access.

MAIN PAGE
All functions described above are visible on and accessible from the Main Page. On the top right hand side of the page is a Member "Quick Ad" Function that allows for swift postings of blogs, discussion, events, music, photos, videos, invites, and sharing of pages.

HOT LINK YOUR ORGANIZATION
Organizations can be members of the web site and can list their Mission Statement and create a "hotlink" back to their own web site.

Testimonials

"I'm a member because straight allies must stand with our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters to make sure we're all treated equally under the law," says **Alanna Berger,** *The Pride Festival of Central PA & Silent Witness PA.*

"I've already used the site to invite people to Club XS events," says **Charles Oswald,** *Club XS Manager and Black & White Benefit Organizer.*

"This represents a great way to bring together all aspects of the community and those who support us," says **Louie Marvin,** *LGBT Community Center Coalition.*

"I've listed chamber events on the free calendar," says **Russ Boggs,** *Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.*

"In today's economic situation it's a natural choice to expand our brand awareness by having a presence on the network," says **Michael D. Harris Jr,** *President / Ardynn Media.*

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HERSHEY THEATRE

Irish Rovers - March 6, 8 p.m.
For more than four decades, The Irish Rovers have charmed and entertained audiences around the world with their exciting stage shows. Now they will perform at Hershey Theatre on Friday, March 6, at 8:00 p.m. Throughout the years, these international ambassadors of Irish music have maintained their timeless ability to deliver a rollicking, rousing performance of good cheer—one that will soon have you singing and clapping along. Their songs have become anthems of revelry and joy among generation after generation of fans. Tickets $45.50, $39.50, $34.50 (processing fees apply) or 717-534-3405 or online at hersheytheatre.com and livenation.com.

WHITAKER CENTER

Gregg Allman
Jan. 9, 8 p.m.
Classic Rock
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets are $95 and $49.50

James Hunter & Ryan Shaw
Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.
R&B, soul and blues
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets are $34.50 and $28.50

WITF Welcomes Celtic Crossroads
Jan. 16, 8 p.m.
A unique Irish music experience
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets are $28.50

STRAND CAPITOL

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (R)
Dec. 31, 10 p.m.
The outrageous cult classic returns with an onstage cast leading the audience participation. Don't miss this infamously twisted salute to Sci-fi, horror, and B movies! Costumes and dry props encouraged. No open flames. All tickets $10. Advance tickets recommended. The Capitol Theatre, 50 N. George St. York, www.strandcapitol.org, 846-1111

LANCASTER SYMPHONY

"Stravinsky's Firebird"
Jan. 16-18
Lancaster Symphony Orchestra opens 2009 with "Stravinsky's Firebird," Jan. 16-18. The program features Stravinsky's The Firebird, the magical work that catapulted the Russian composer to the ranks of the Masters. A favorite for film scores, the composition introduced many to the alluring beauty of classical music in Disney's "Fantasia 2000." The concert also features Chopin's beautiful Piano Concerto No. 2. Tickets: (717) 397-7425, $25-$62

Combined Reviews of Books, DVDs and CDs

MUSIC

Patti LaBelle

"Roll Out," the infectious lead single from Patti Labelle's first new studio album in over 30 years, represents just one dimension of the group's genre-bending sound. The modern mid-tempo dance track produced by and featuring Wyclef Jean and Jerry 'Wonda' Duplessis highlights bouncing synthetic drumbeats and soaring vocals that deliver an empowering message to women.

Annie Lennox

Annie Lennox and Bryan Adams performed acoustic sets alongside international sensation Natasha Bedingfield for Peace One Day. As a direct outcome of Peace One Day's campaigning in 2007, parties in Afghanistan recognized Peace Day resulting in 1.4 million Afghanistan children being vaccinated against polio. Last year, 100 million people in 200 countries were engaged in Peace Day activities and in 14 of those countries, efforts were targeted towards providing life-saving activities and medical services on the Day. Concert album on Amazon.com

Hillary Duff

With this album, fans can chart Hillary Duff's musical growth, from ingénue teen sensation to mature artist. "I like so many different kinds of music," says Hilary. "I'm all over the place with my musical taste, so I like having lots of influences. I'm excited about music and getting the itch to write again." www.hilaryduff.com

William Control

Something wicked this way comes. William Control, the side-project of AIDEN frontman Will "wiL" Francis, exorcises the musical demons of his psycho-sexual alter ego with the release of debut album Hate Culture (Victory Records) on 28th October 2008 - get a taste of what's to come with his newly-designed website www.WilliamControl.com

Dido

The new album from Dido, Safe Trip Home is co-produced by: Jon Brion famous for working with Fiona Apple, Kayne West, Rufus Wainwright, The Eels. The record also features a song co-written with Brian Eno. The album is Dido's third studio record, following her globally chart topping albums No Angel and Life for Rent.

Bryn Christopher

If My World, Bryn's debut album, sounds like the work of an assured, confident, old-school soul man trapped in the body of a new kid on the pop block itching to make his mark, that shouldn't come as a surprise. Ask him about his own songs, and the 22 year old will talk to you about addiction, undervaluing yourself, the Iraq war and writing lyrics on his mobile phone. If you want soul-steeped authenticity in 21st century togs, Bryn Christopher's your man.

Nikka Costa

Nikka Costa has always seemed to thrive on a certain sense of freedom. It's no wonder, that when Nikka set out to create a record on her own terms and as an independent artist finally free of major label confines, she has made her boldest and most passionate record yet. Over 14 days at Henson Recording Studios in Los Angeles, Nikka created Pebble to a Pearl- a quintessential collection of soul, blues, funk & pop infused tracks which marks Nikka's triumphant return.

Anjulie Goes 'Boom'

Anjulie's debut album for Hear Music doesn't arrive until in the spring of '09, however futurists got a taste in November with release of "The Boom EP" a 3-song digital only EP. Obsessed with music as a child, Anjulie has been singing and writing songs since she was a teen, and the years she spent honing her craft are readily apparent on this special digital only 3-song EP and her forthcoming self-titled debut album for Hear Music. www.anjuliemusic.com

The Pussycat Dolls

The Pussycat Dolls highly-anticipated album, Doll Domination is finally available now! Featuring hit singles "When I Grow Up" and "Whatcha Think About That feat. Missy Elliott," and collaborations with Timbaland, Sean Garrett, among others. The Deluxe Edition offers 5 additional tracks featuring each of The Dolls on never-heard-before solo tracks.

Butch Jamie

Butch Jamie is a quirky, gender-bending comedy about an out-of-work lesbian actor willing to try almost anything for a role. Dressing up as "Femme Jamie" for auditions, struggling actress Jamie Klein (writer/director Michelle Ehlen) continually faces rejection as she fails to be a typical leading lady. Spurred on by her roommate Lola's (Olivia Nix) successful cat actor, Jamie decides to take a different approach and audition as herself - aka "Butch Jamie." This ends up landing her a part as a man, and despite the offense that she takes in being offered a male role, she accepts. After transforming herself into "Male Jamie," Jamie's bitterness subsides as she starts to have fun gallavanting as her male alter-ego.

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Fulton Youtheatre Honored by Laura Bush at White House

Before leaving the White House, Laura Bush honored Fulton Youtheatre Program, a Lancaster, Pennsylvania initiative that gives at-risk youth an opportunity to create, perform, and build important life skills, is being nationally recognized as one of 19 youth arts and humanities programs to receive the prestigious 2008 Coming Up Taller Award.

Program Founder and Director Barry Kornhauser and student representative Kyle Harris received the honor from Mrs. Laura Bush at a ceremony in the East Room of the White House last November.

Coming Up Taller is an initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH). The President's Committee partners with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to administer the program, which was founded in 1998.

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, and provide them with new learning opportunities and a chance to contribute to their communities. The awards also highlight the contributions that historians, scholars, librarians and visual and performing arts make to families and communities by mentoring children. More than 350 nominations were received by the program in 2008.

From a rehearsal space at Lancaster's historic Fulton Opera House, the Fulton Youtheatre Program welcomes youths who have faced significant challenges, including those who have been referred from social service, juvenile justice and other agencies. The participating teens learn to write, produce, and perform plays that reflect experiences relevant to their lives, enabling them to share their feelings with others while building self-confidence and preparedness for successful futures. The plays are developed over a two-year period, progressing from a workshop production the first summer to a fully staged production the second year.

"To be honored by the highest office in the land, at the White House no less, is an extraordinary tribute to the hundreds of young people who have poured their hearts and souls into this program over the years," noted Barry Kornhauser. "It is so gratifying that their perseverance, passion, and promise have earned them this special acknowledgment, and we are very proud of them." Co-Director Adele Ulrich added that "this recognition of the expression and experience of all of the Youtheatre participants only confirms that as their voices rise, they help lift us all." Kornhauser concluded that "we are deeply grateful to the Fulton Theatre board and all of the individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies whose strong, steady support has helped to transform and enrich so many young lives, and make today possible."

"Arts and humanities activities have a wonderful way of enabling young people to discover their unique talents and interests as they forge a path to success in school and in life," said Adair Margo, Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. "The Fulton Youtheatre puts youth development at center stage by challenging and encouraging its participants to make their voices heard. Audience who listen carefully will be inspired by what they have to say."

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Huma nities bridges the interests of federal agencies and the private sector, supports special projects that increase participation, and helps incorporate the humanities and the arts into White House objectives. The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Because democracy demands wisdom, the National Endowment for the Humanities serves and strengthens our Republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal grant making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners.

For more information please visit the following Web sites:

Fulton Youtheatre Program: http://www.thefulton.org/

Coming Up Taller: http://www.cominguptaller.org/

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities: http://www.pcah.gov/

National Endowment for the Arts: http://www.arts.gov/

National Endowment for the Humanities: http://www.neh.gov/

Institute of Museum and Library Services: http://www.imls.gov/

Essay: "I've seen the Bridge"

A letter I wrote to myself reminding me that I am going be just fine.

By Todd Marsh

Dear Todd,

Remember October 6, 2006, the day of your first Elton John concert, when you purchased his newest album titled "The Captain and the Kid"?

You could not wait to run out to your car, tear open the plastic, and surf through the new songs. After a frustrating struggle with the plastic wrap, you finally slid the compact disc into your stereo player and gradually made your way to track number seven titled "The Bridge".

When the final chord on the piano was played by the hands of your music hero, you were amazed by the powerful message the song portrayed. Of course, you knew that the lyrics were written by Elton's song-writing partner, Bernie Taupin. Nevertheless, the words soared out of Elton's lungs and into your ears moving you in such a magnificent way. It was as if Bernie and Elton were speaking directly to you. They were saying there is a bridge just for you, Todd.

A bridge that is always going to have a presence during hard times in your life. A bridge that you must cross to capture what your heart desires.

You know for a fact there have been many bridges in your past. Some have stretched the distance of an eternity while others have appeared higher than the clouds in the sky. Sometimes, you have even felt like jumping into the dark water that waits below. You just have to keep in mind to be strong, strong like the steel that holds up your bridge. The steel that can hold the weight of time. You have a future ahead of you, and you must keep marching forward so you can accomplish all of your goals and dreams.

Thinking back on "hard times," you realize just how much you have been through the last few years. Many of the decisions that you made caused you to struggle. What is important now is that you realize what mistakes you made and you have tried your best to learn from them. Perhaps, the biggest struggle of all was being all alone and feeling lonely most of the time. However, throughout all of this, you managed to amaze a lot of people around you with your will to keep going and to not give up.

Your bad luck streak started in 2002 when your best friend of eighteen years died. It was as if "life" started at that very moment and you truly felt what pain was. Losing her was the biggest tragedy you had ever experienced to date. Everything happened so suddenly and nobody had any time to prepare themselves for such a terrible situation. Even when you arrived at the hospital and saw all of her family, you did not think she would be gone.

She was though, and you had to deal with her passing the best that you could. You can look back now and think of her demise as a learning experience for what it is like to lose someone very close to you. Of course, you are always going to be sad when you reminisce about all the great times, but you know that in time your soul is going to recover from your constant grieving. Every night you have thought to yourself, will the pain ever go away? Deep down in your heart, you know that the answer is no. You have come to the conclusion that the pain of losing somebody might not ever go away, but time will be the ultimate healer.

At this same time in your life, you had no idea that only three years later you would suffer an even bigger loss by losing your grandmother. You also had no idea that the house you practically grew up in would burn to ashes or that you would be involved in a horrific car accident. These unfortunate issues that have happened make you think of the yin-yang symbol, a symbol of "life." A symbol that represents there is a little bit of good in everything bad and a little bit of bad in everything good. It is hard to find anything good at all when you lose someone important in your life, but you never know what you might think of in the future. You have let the precious memories that are locked in your mind be the little bit of good for now. You have also learned that it is better to focus on the positive details in every situation and that will help keep your head high. The world can be an ugly place, but being compassionate and following the symbol you hold in your heart will always lead you to higher ground.

Despite all the recent pain you have had to cope with, you now feel that you are at a great place in your life. You have learned so much in the last couple of years. You have your own apartment, your own car, a rewarding job, and you are going to college. You have learned to pay your own bills and keep the maintenance up with your car. You have a lot to be proud of and there are a lot of people that are proud of you. The two people you want to impress the most are your parents. They have always been there for you as you have gone through your journey of growing up. You may be out in the world living alone now, but you know they are never far away. Hearing their voices on the telephone each day seems to help you progress in your daily routines. You have come to realize that you are truly happy with yourself and also with what you are doing in your life. That is one of the best feelings a human being can have.

So you see Todd, you have come a long way in your short life. In the end, you know that you will have one final bridge to cross. That will be the bridge into your Heaven. This bridge will be shining so bright and on the other side you can see your best friend and your grandma smiling at you as you walk toward them. At that moment, when you reach out to hug them, you will be set free and it will then be time to meet your God. Death is a part of life. You must keep crossing your bridges as the years go by and live your life to the fullest so you can one day be reunited with all the ones you love.

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2) Your surviving partner may end up with nothing and may even have to go to court to prove ownership of property that was rightfully theirs.
3) As for funeral arrangements, if you do not give specific instructions, your partner will not have any legal right to carry out your wishes and could even be barred from the funeral services. Funeral arrangements made in advance will add weight to your wishes.
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O'Diam Resigns con'td

I'd reached 75%, that means one in four congregation members could remain negative. I'm not angry but it is evident I need to move on."

Procedure indicates that an interim pastor is assigned to the church for about 18 months before the congregation offers the position to someone on a permanent basis. "People need to focus on their feelings, some okay with my departure, some not. An interim pastor clears the way for the permanent pastor," O'Diam explains. Interim assignees are usually not offered the job when their 18-month assignment expires.

O'Diam and her partner Mary, an H&R Block consultant, are planning to remain in the region for the time being. "I'm planning on staying involved in the community," O'Diam says.

Virtual Voice con'td

submit information in my profile that would help me network with others in the community. Sort of like Linkedin. I would like to see this as a resource to locate what is available to us in the community and to be able to contact those that might be able to provide a service I am in need of," he says.

thecentralvoice.ning.com

Blogger Todd Marsh said "I joined Central Voice's virtual community so I could do some writing and interact with other members. Having my own blog allows me to share my thoughts, feelings, and opinions about several topics that are on my mind."

Marsh finds the site "well organized and simple to use, and it can be a great way to make new friends." He likes the way the site allows users to "keep up with current events and news about our community. It's a great way to get involved!"

Readers are invited to go to thecentralvoice.ning.com and join.

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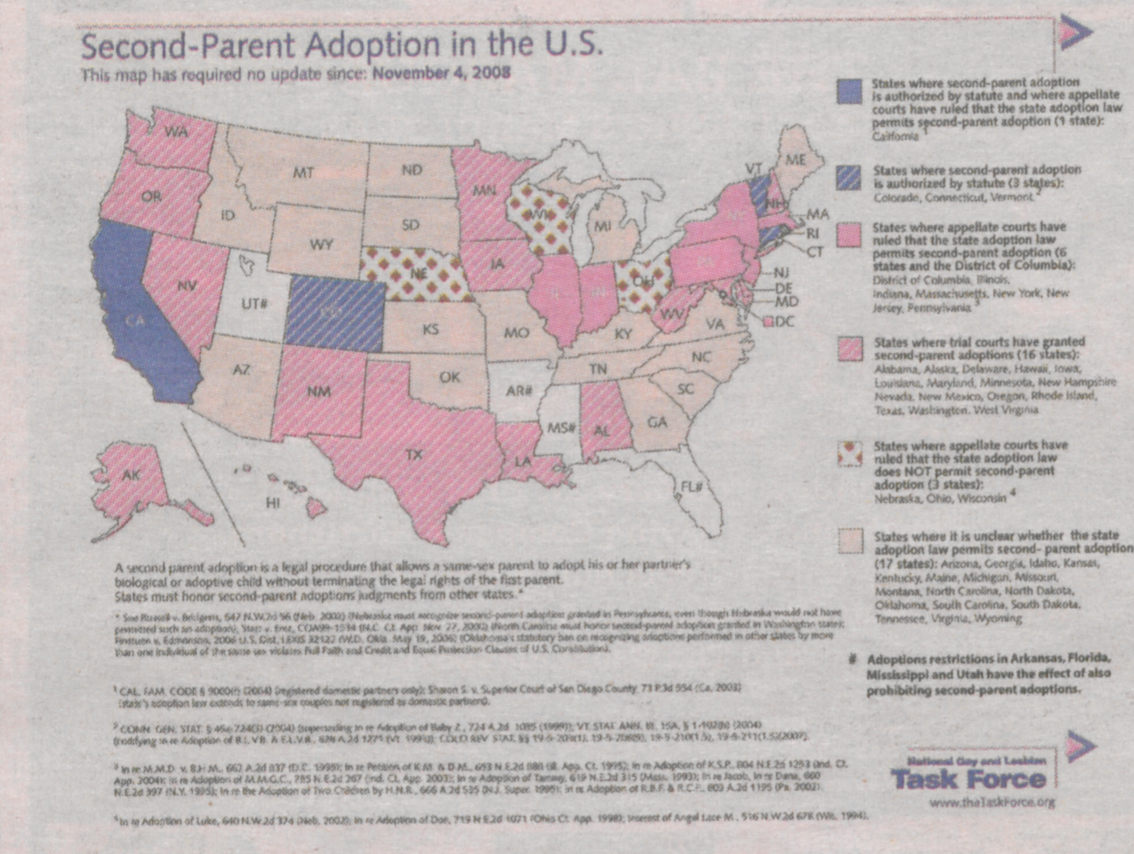
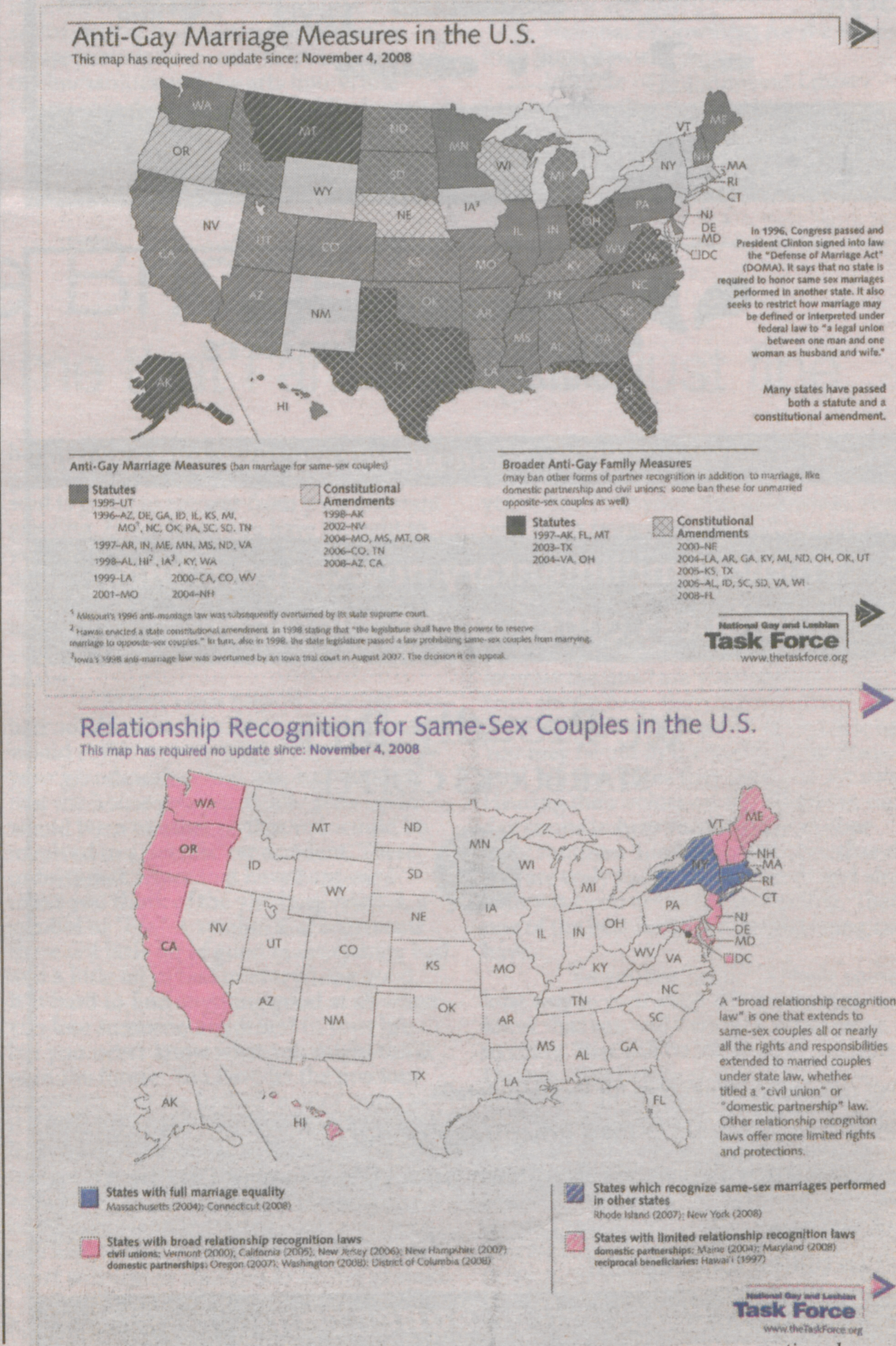
Map Out Your Rights

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force recently released detailed, up-to-date maps that track ballot initiatives, laws and regulations related to same-sex marriage, relationship recognition and foster/adoption rights.

The maps include: Adoption laws, anti-gay marriage measures, foster care regulations; relationship recognition; second-parent adoption.


Second-Parent Adoption in the U.S.
This map has required no update since: November 4, 2008
States where second-parent adoption is authorized by statute and where appellate courts have ruled that the state adoption law permits second-parent adoption (1 state): California
States where second-parent adoption is authorized by statute (3 states): Colorado, Connecticut, Vermont
States where appellate courts have ruled that the state adoption law permits second-parent adoption (6 states and the District of Columbia): District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
States where trial courts have granted second-parent adoptions (16 states): Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington, West Virginia
States where appellate courts have ruled that the state adoption law does NOT permit second-parent adoption (3 states): Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin
States where it is unclear whether the state adoption law permits second- parent adoptions. (17 states): Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming
Adoptions restrictions in Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi and Utah have the effect of also prohibiting second-parent adoptions.
A second parent adoption is a legal procedure that allows a same-sex parent to adopt his or her partner's biological or adoptive child without terminating the legal rights of the first parent.
States must honor second-parent adoptions judgments from other states.*
* See Russell v. Belgiorno, 647 N.W.2d 96 (Neb. 2002) (Nebraska must recognize second-parent adoptions granted in Pennsylvania, even though Nebraska would not have permitted such an adoption); Sturz v. Enc., COA09-1194 (N.C. Ct. App. Nov. 17, 2010) (North Carolina must honor second-parent adoption granted in Washington state); Finstuen v. Edmonson, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 32122 (N.D. Okla. May 19, 2006) (Oklahoma's statutory ban on recognizing adoptions performed in other states by more than one individual of the same sex violates Full Faith and Credit and Equal Protection Clauses of U.S. Constitution).
1 CAL. FAM. CODE § 9000(b) (2004) (registered domestic partners only); Sharon S. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, 73 P.3d 554 (Ca. 2003) (State's adoption law extends to same-sex couples not registered as domestic partners).
2 CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-724(3) (2004) (superseding In re Adoption of Baby Z., 724 A.2d 1035 (1999)); VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 15A, § 1-102(b) (2004) (codifying In re Adoption of B.L.V.B. & E.L.V.B., 628 A.2d 1271 (Vt. 1993)); COLO. REV. STAT. §§ 19-5-203(1), 19-5-208(1), 19-5-210(1.5), 19-5-211(1.5)(2007).
3 In re M.M.D. v. B.H.M., 662 A.2d 837 (D.C. 1995); In re Petition of K.M. & D.M., 653 N.E.2d 888 (Ill. App. Ct. 1995); In re Adoption of K.S.P., 804 N.E.2d 1253 (Ind. Ct. App. 2004); In re Adoption of M.M.G.C., 785 N.E.2d 267 (Ind. Ct. App. 2003); In re Adoption of Tammy, 619 N.E.2d 315 (Mass. 1993); In re Jacob, In re Dana, 660 N.E.2d 397 (N.Y. 1995); In re the Adoption of Two Children by H.N.R., 666 A.2d 535 (N.J. Super. 1995); In re Adoption of R.B.F. & R.C.F., 803 A.2d 1195 (Pa. 2002).
4 In re Adoption of Luke, 640 N.W.2d 374 (Neb. 2002); In re Adoption of Doe, 719 N.E.2d 1071 (Ohio Ct. App. 1998); Interest of Angel Lace M., 516 N.W.2d 678 (Wis. 1994).
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
www.thaTaskForce.org


Anti-Gay Marriage Measures in the U.S.
This map has required no update since: November 4, 2008
In 1996, Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA). It says that no state is required to honor same sex marriages performed in another state. It also seeks to restrict how marriage may be defined or interpreted under federal law to "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife."
Many states have passed both a statute and a constitutional amendment.
Anti-Gay Marriage Measures (ban marriage for same-sex couples)
Statutes
1995–UT
1996–AZ, DE, GA, ID, IL, KS, MI, MO[1], NC, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN
1997–AR, IN, ME, MN, MS, ND, VA
1998–AL, HI[2], IA[3], KY, WA
1999–LA
2000–CA, CO, WV
2001–MO
2004–NH
Constitutional Amendments
1998–AK
2002–NV
2004–MO, MS, MT, OR
2006–CO, TN
2008–AZ, CA
Broader Anti-Gay Family Measures
(may ban other forms of partner recognition in addition to marriage, like domestic partnership and civil unions; some ban these for unmarried opposite-sex couples as well)
Statutes
1997–AK, FL, MT
2003–TX
2004–VA, OH
Constitutional Amendments
2000–NE
2004–LA, AR, GA, KY, MI, ND, OH, OK, UT
2005–KS, TX
2006–AL, ID, SC, SD, VA, WI
2008–FL
1 Missouri's 1996 anti-marriage law was subsequently overturned by its state supreme court.
2 Hawaii enacted a state constitutional amendment in 1998 stating that "the legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." In turn, also in 1998, the state legislature passed a law prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying.
3 Iowa's 1998 anti-marriage law was overturned by an Iowa trial court in August 2007. The decision is on appeal.
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
www.thetaskforce.org

Relationship Recognition for Same-Sex Couples in the U.S.
This map has required no update since: November 4, 2008
A "broad relationship recognition law" is one that extends to same-sex couples all or nearly all the rights and responsibilities extended to married couples under state law, whether titled a "civil union" or "domestic partnership" law. Other relationship recogniton laws offer more limited rights and protections.
States with full marriage equality
Massachusetts (2004); Connecticut (2008)
States with broad relationship recognition laws
civil unions: Vermont (2000); California (2005); New Jersey (2006); New Hampshire (2007)
domestic partnerships: Oregon (2007); Washington (2008); District of Columbia (2008)
States which recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states
Rhode Island (2007); New York (2008)
States with limited relationship recognition laws
domestic partnerships: Maine (2004); Maryland (2008)
reciprocal beneficiaries: Hawai'i (1997)
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continued on page 15

COMMON ROADS & LGBT center coalition present...

Winter Arts Festival 2009

Featuring ANT the Comic

Featuring Jennie McNulty

Time 8 PM

Tickets $150 (per 4 seat table) $35 (SRO) *both includes Ball*

Time 10PM - 2 AM

Tickets $15

Crowning of the 2009 Queen of Hearts
Valentine's Day February 14, 2009

XS

Rainbow Shorts

A One Day Festival of LGBT Short Films

All the Reel Girls (91 Min - 6 Movies)
20 min. Intermission (at MJ's Coffeehouse)
All the Reel Boys (68 Min - 6 Movies)

January 24, 2009 1-4 p.m
Allen Theatre & MJ's Coffeehouse
36 E. Main St. Rt. 422
Annville, PA 17003
Ticket Cost:
$20 (ADV), $25 (D.O.S.)

February 21, 2009 Benefits The Curve

The Pullo Family Performing Arts Center @ Penn State York,
1031 Edgecomb Ave, York, PA

Ticket Cost: $5 (Students),
$20 (Gen. Ad.), $40 Preferred Seating

a t k m

A Project of Planned Parenthood of Central PA

Harrisburg Men's Chorus
With Strings Attached
w/ the Arcona Reel Band

January 17, 2009 @ 8pm,
January 18, 2009 @ 2 pm

Rose Lehrman Arts Center,
HACC main Campus

Ticket Cost: $15.00

Music for a Midwinter's Night

Central PA Womyn's Chorus
Harrisburg Men's Chorus
Silent Art Auction

January 31 2009
Catered reception for Auction at 7
Concert at 8, followed by the
Silent Art Auction, Benefits Pride
Fest of Central PA &
Vision of Hope MCC

Vision of Hope MCC
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January 10 + 11
Sponsored by The Kline Foundation
■ Mahler: Symphony No. 9
Tickets: HarrisburgSymphony.org or 717.545.5527

Capital BlueCross
Pops Series
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February 7 + 8
Tickets: HarrisburgSymphony.org or 717.545.5527

Education Weekend Sponsored by M&T Bank
February 21 + 22
RACH OF AGES
■ Smetana: The Moldau
■ Schulhoff: Symphony No. 5
■ Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3
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Tickets: HarrisburgSymphony.org or 717.545.5527
Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra
Stuart Malina, Music Director
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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Tobacco & LGBT Health

Smoking related-diseases kill one in 10 adults globally, or cause four million deaths. By 2030, if current trends continue, smoking will kill one in six people.

The American Cancer Society estimates that over 30,000 LGBT people die each year of tobacco related diseases.

In a recent national study on adolescent health, 45% of females and 35% of males who reported same-sex attraction or behavior smoked; compared to only 29% for the rest of the youth.

LGBT's show some of the highest smoking prevalence rates of all disproportionably affected populations.

New Transgender Health Resources Now Available

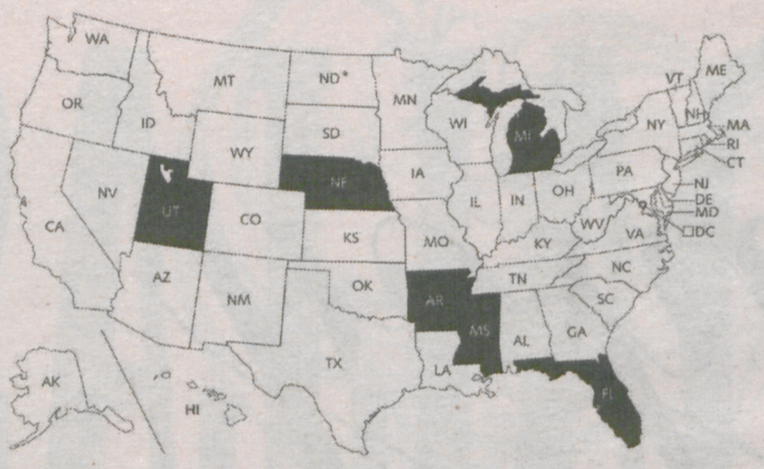
A new resource for the transgender community is now available. The Transgender Health Program in partnership with Transcend Transgender Support & Education Society of Victoria, has created practice guidelines for clinicians in British Columbia and elsewhere who are already "trans-positive" but lack the clinical knowledge necessary to effectively work with the transgender community. The resource also lists consumer information for trans people and loved onesas well as frameworks for clinician training.

Local and international experts in transgender care worked with local members of the transgender community to create seven sets of guidelines. The guidelines are for health and social service providers. The materials also contain 17 health information booklets for transgender people and their families. The materials address issues in adolescent health, clinical advocacy, hormone therapy, mental health, primary medical care, speech/voice change, and surgery. Details: http://www.vch.ca/transhealth/resources/tcp.html

Map Rights con't'd

Adoption Laws in the U.S.

This map has required no update since: **November 4, 2008**



*North Dakota law, enacted in 2003, allows child-placing agencies to discriminate against prospective parents based on religious or moral objection, which could result in discrimination against prospective LGBT parents.

NOTE: Parenting rights are always determined on a case-by-case basis. If you are considering becoming a parent or are facing a parenting contest, you should contact the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (www.NLGLA.org) to identify a lawyer licensed in your state and familiar with LGBT family law.

States with Laws Restricting Gay Adoption

Arkansas – Arkansas law, enacted by a statewide vote on Nov. 4, 2008 and going into effect on Jan. 1, 2009, prohibits the adoption by an individual "cohabiting with a sexual partner outside of a marriage." The law applies "equally to cohabiting opposite-sex and same-sex individuals."

Nebraska – Nebraska policy, by 1995 directive of the then director of Nebraska's Department of Social Service, prohibits adoption by individuals "who are known by the agency to be homosexual or who are unmarried and living with another adult." It is unclear if this policy is enforced. The Nebraska state constitution restricts marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Florida – Florida law, enacted in 1977, expressly prohibits "homosexual" individuals from adopting.

Michigan – In 2004, the Attorney General issued an opinion stating that same-sex couples who are married in other jurisdictions are not legally authorized to jointly adopt children in Michigan.

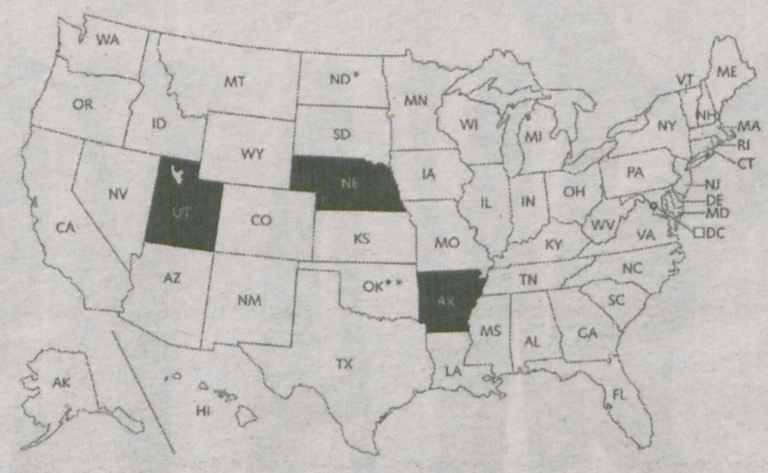
Mississippi – Mississippi law, enacted in 2000, expressly prohibits "adoption by couples of the same gender."

Utah – Utah law, enacted in 2000, prohibits adoption "by a person who is cohabitating in a relationship that is not a legally valid and binding marriage" under Utah state law. (Cohabitating is defined as "residing with a person and being involved in a sexual relationship with that person.")
A subsequent law, enacted in 2007, gives preference to married couples over single adults in adoption placement decisions. Utah has a state constitutional amendment and a statutory law restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
www.theTaskForce.org

Foster Care Laws and Regulations in the U.S.

This map has required no update since: **November 4, 2008**



*North Dakota law, enacted in 2003, allows child-placing agencies to discriminate against prospective parents based on religious or moral objection, which could result in discrimination against prospective LGBT parents.

NOTE: Parenting rights are always determined on a case-by-case basis. If you are considering becoming a parent or are facing a parenting contest, you should contact the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (www.NLGLA.org) to identify a lawyer licensed in your state and familiar with LGBT family law.

States with Laws Restricting Foster Parenting

Nebraska – Nebraska policy, by 1995 directive of the then director of Nebraska's Department of Social Service, prohibits foster parentingby individuals "who are known by the agency to be homosexual or who are unmarried and living with another adult." It is unclear if this policy is enforced. The Nebraska state constitution restricts marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Utah – Utah law, enacted in 2000, prohibits the placement of foster children with "a person who is cohabitating in a relationship that is not a legally valid and binding marriage" under Utah state law. (Cohabitating is defined as "residing with a person and being involved in a sexual relationship with that person.")
A subsequent law, enacted in 2007, gives preference to married couples over single adults in foster care placement decisions.
Utah has a state constitutional amendment and a statutory law restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Arkansas – Arkansas law, enacted by a statewide vote on Nov. 4, 2008 and going into effect on Jan. 1, 2009, prohibits the placement of foster care children with an individual if the individual "is cohabiting with a sexual partner outside of a marriage." The law applies "equally to cohabiting opposite-sex and same-sex individuals." These same restrictions apply for adoption of children, regardless of whether it is private or public adoption

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
www.theTaskForce.org

Rainbow Shorts: A One Day Festival of LGBT Short Films

As part of the 2009 Winter HeARTS Festival, Positive Opportunities, Inc, is presenting "Rainbow Shorts: A One Day Festival of LGBT Short Films" Sat., Jan. 24, 1 – 4 p.m. (Doors open at noon.) at the Allen Theatre & MJ's Coffeehouse, 36 E. Main St. Rt. 422 (Exit 85A, I-81), Annville, PA. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door.

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"I'm thrilled to bring back a glbt film venue that I started at Midtown Cinema and ran from 2002-2005," says Pizzoli. The film event benefits Positive Opportunities, Inc. whose nonprofit mission is to provide HIV employment-related services, benefits counseling, financial assistance, and education and support to HIV-infected individuals. Supported by The AIDS Fund of South Central PA, Broadway Cares & Equity Fights AIDS, AIDS Community Alliance, Gilead Sciences.

Positive Opportunities is a nonprofit organization founded in 1997 by Central Voice founding publisher and editor Frank Pizzoli. The mission is to provide HIV employment related services, benefits counseling, financial assistance, and education and support to HIV-infected individuals. Pizzoli performs all of his work for the organization on a "pro bono" basis.

The organization has garnered a number of awards since its inception: 1999 Nominated, J.C. Penney Foundation Good Samaritan Award (1999), Points of Light Foundation Award (2001), Community Service Award, AIDS Community Alliance (2003), FAB Community Service Award (2003), Harrisburg Magazine Regional Mover & Shapers (2005), AIDS Planning Coalition of South Central PA, Appreciation Award (2006), The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, AIDS Fund of Central PA (2006).

"The festival consists of two segments of short films, one based on the experiences of women, one based on the experiences of men," Pizzoli says. He worked with New York City's most popular glbt film venue, OUTFest, which graciously allowed him to re-curate their selections made by a panel of judges.

All the Reel Girls (91 mins.)

This collection of DVD shorts portrays women of all ages, exploring families, relationships, and challenges. Includes a locally produced documentary.

Just Me? - A young woman feels isolated as the only lesbian in her large extended family until an old photo album offers clues to a family secret. (Amy Neil, USA, 2007, 22 min.)

Downstream - Two 70-year-old women swim daily and meditate on friendship, love, and becoming older. (Claudia Lorenz & Cecilia Barriga, Switzerland, 2007, 6 min., subtitled)

Girls Room - A young girl's trip to the horrifying school bathroom results in unexpected encounter. (Maria Gigante, USA, 2007, 10 mins.)

In the Theme - A story about two girls, their relationships, and the world surrounding them. (Olga Popova, Russia, 2008, 14 min.)

Losing 1983 - Life, loss, and the Pepsi-Coke challenge. (Ali Coterie, USA, 2008, 9 min.)

Second Lazarus – Locally produced glimpse of living with HIV/AIDS in south central PA. (Frank Pizzoli, USA, 2007, 30 min.)

20 min. Cash Intermission for refreshments at MJ's Coffeehouse

All the Reel Boys (68 mins.)

This collection of DVD shorts portrays gay men of all ages from various backgrounds focusing on the diversity of life's choices. (68 mins.)

For a Relationship - Filmmaker sorts through 2 years of images to make sense of the relationships in his life. (Jim Verburg, Canada, 2006, 4 min.)

Holdout - Filmed in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a portrait of a classic New Orleans eccentric set in the stark and surreal landscape of a desolate Crescent City. (Brent Joseph, USA, 2007, 15 min.)

Florent - Florent Morellet battles his dark side as he tries to keep the lights on in his popular nightspot. (Laura Van Schendel, USA, 2006, 15 min.)

Smalltown Boy - David has never felt at home in his countryside town. ((Moby Longinotto, UK, 2007, 13 min.)

Undressing Vanessa - Vanessa Wagner is a colorful Aussie, but all is not what it may appear to be. (Matthew Pond, Australia, 2007, 21 min.)

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

8 WAYS to Enjoy DALLAS

Glamorous and glitzy Dallas is a fast-growing city with some of the flashiest and most sophisticated dining, clubbing, and shopping in the country, much of it in the gay-popular Oak Lawn and Uptown neighborhoods. This sprawling, modern metropolis is also becoming increasingly well-known for its myriad cultural offerings, including a much-awaited opera house set to open in 2009. Outdoorsy types will find plenty to do here, too, including sailing on White Rock Lake and biking along the scenic Katy Trail, a converted rail line that cuts through some of the city's liveliest neighborhoods. Here are eight different ways to get to know Dallas, from nibbling on tasty Tex-Mex fare to line-dancing at one of the country's largest gay country-western bars to watching the talented GLBT Turtle Creek Chorale perform in a state-of-the-art concert hall.

Drink margaritas and eat great Mexican food

Dallas really doesn't have any weaknesses when it comes to restaurants - you'll find superb sushi, barbecue, and French bistro fare in this eclectic city. The leading local specialties, however, are Mexican and Tex-Mex cooking - two similar but distinct culinary traditions that you should make every effort to try when in Dallas. Among popular Mexican gay hangouts, Cyclone Anaya's Mexican Kitchen is a fun spot in Oak Lawn for potent margaritas and such flavorful nibbles as roast-chicken chile rellenos and lobster enchiladas. Just north of downtown in the Deep Ellum neighborhood, Monica's Aca Y Alla is a long-running gay fave known for such innovative Tex-Mex fare as chili-pumpkin ravioli and chicken fajitas.

Explore JFK's legacy

No visit to Dallas is complete without a visit to Dealey Plaza, the infamous spot where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. Across Elm Street, along which Kennedy's motorcade traveled, is the so-called grassy knoll, from which conspiracy theorists believe a second gunman fired at Kennedy. At the northeast corner of the plaza and Houston Street is the legendary Texas School Book Depository, now home to the Sixth Floor Museum, which preserves the space where Lee Harvey Oswald fired at the president. This poignant museum is loaded with memorabilia related to JFK's life as well as detailed exhibits that provide insights into the various theories behind his assassination.

The Sixth Floor Museum, viewed from the exact spot where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. (Photo by Andrew Collins)

Go bar-hopping in Oak Lawn

At the Oak Lawn intersection of Cedar Springs and Throckmorton roads, aka "the Crossroads," you'll find ground zero for gay nightlife in Dallas. The several fun clubs and bars here cater to a colorful mix of revelers - on weekends, this dynamic neighborhood is jam-packed with club-goers. Caven Enterprises runs four of the best establishments: J.R.'s, a festive video bar that draws the stand-and-model set; Sue Ellen's, a swanky women's dance club with live music on the upper level; Station 4, a cavernous dance club with a campy cabaret upstairs that presents some of the best drag entertainment in the country; and the Mining Company, a rough-and-tumble, cruisy guys' bar. These four spots are next to one another, taking up a full city block along Cedar Springs Road.

Across the street, the Round-Up Saloon caters to country-western fans and has some of the best line-dancing you'll ever see. Also within a short walk are Alexandre's, a classy piano bar; Havana, which is popular with the Latin crowd; and Woody's, a laid-back sports and video bar.

Explore White Rock Lake and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Plenty of gays and lesbians congregate on sunny days along the shores of White Rock Lake, a 1,000-acre reservoir that's encircled by a 9.3-mile jogging and biking trail. The lake is also home to several parks and piers that welcome fishing and sailing (but no swimming or motorized boats). Bordering the lake is the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, 65 acres of floral and vegetable gardens and an art- and antiques-filled Spanish Colonial-style mansion. To get here, take I-30 east from downtown, exit north at Grand Avenue, and follow it until it becomes Garland Road. If you're planning a picnic at White Rock Lake or looking to stock up on delicious gourmet goods and groceries, check out Eatzi's in Oak Lawn, which has a nice selection of prepared foods and deli sandwiches.

Have a spa day at the Ritz-Carlton

One of the newest hotels in the city's booming Uptown neighborhood, the Ritz-Carlton opened inside an elegant deco-inspired tower in 2007, along the McKinney Avenue Trolley line and just a short drive from Oak Lawn. To fully appreciate this swish 218-room hotel you might want to spend the night in one of the luxe rooms. Or just plan a day visit, beginning with a Prada skin-care treatment or signature seaweed facial in the 12,000-square-foot spa. At lunchtime, venture outside to the second-floor pool and terrace, where you can order a Cobb salad or spiced-chicken quesadilla while you soak up some rays.

In the afternoon, perhaps after working out for a bit in the extensive exercise room, book a muscle-soothing fitness and sports massage, or an urban renewal antioxidant body mask treatment. By evening, you should be feeling just about ready for a martini in the softly lit Rattlesnake Bar, followed by dinner at the ultra-chic restaurant, Fearing's. Artful creations like smoked pecan-rolled foie gras with black pepper-caramel and roasted apples, or coriander-crusted lamb chops with white beans and charred-fennel cream, reveal chef Dean Fearing's considerable talent and imagination.

Get your culture fix in the Dallas Arts District

The largest urban cultural district in the country, the 68-acre Dallas Arts District occupies the northern edge of downtown. Here you'll find an abundance of museums and performance spaces, among them the spectacular Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, which often hosts the acclaimed GLBT Turtle Creek Chorale and the similarly well-regarded Women's Chorus of Dallas. The Dallas Museum of Art, Trammell & Margaret Crow

continued on page 18

A Healthy Balance

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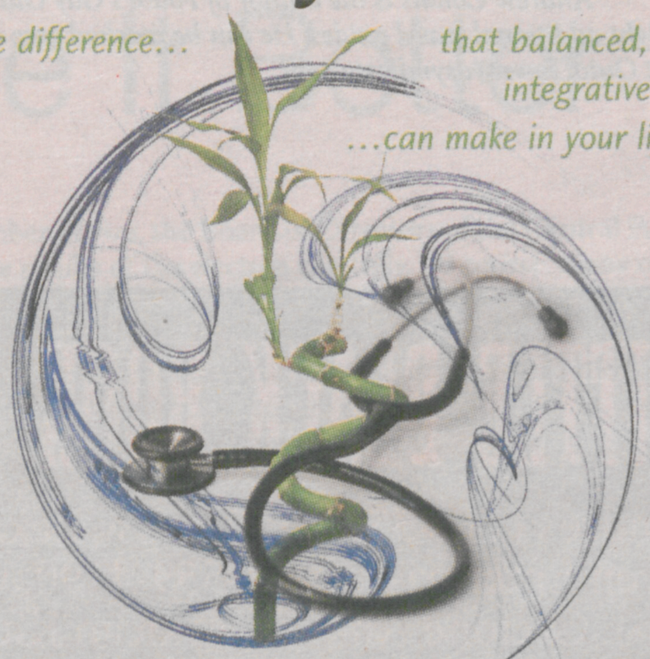

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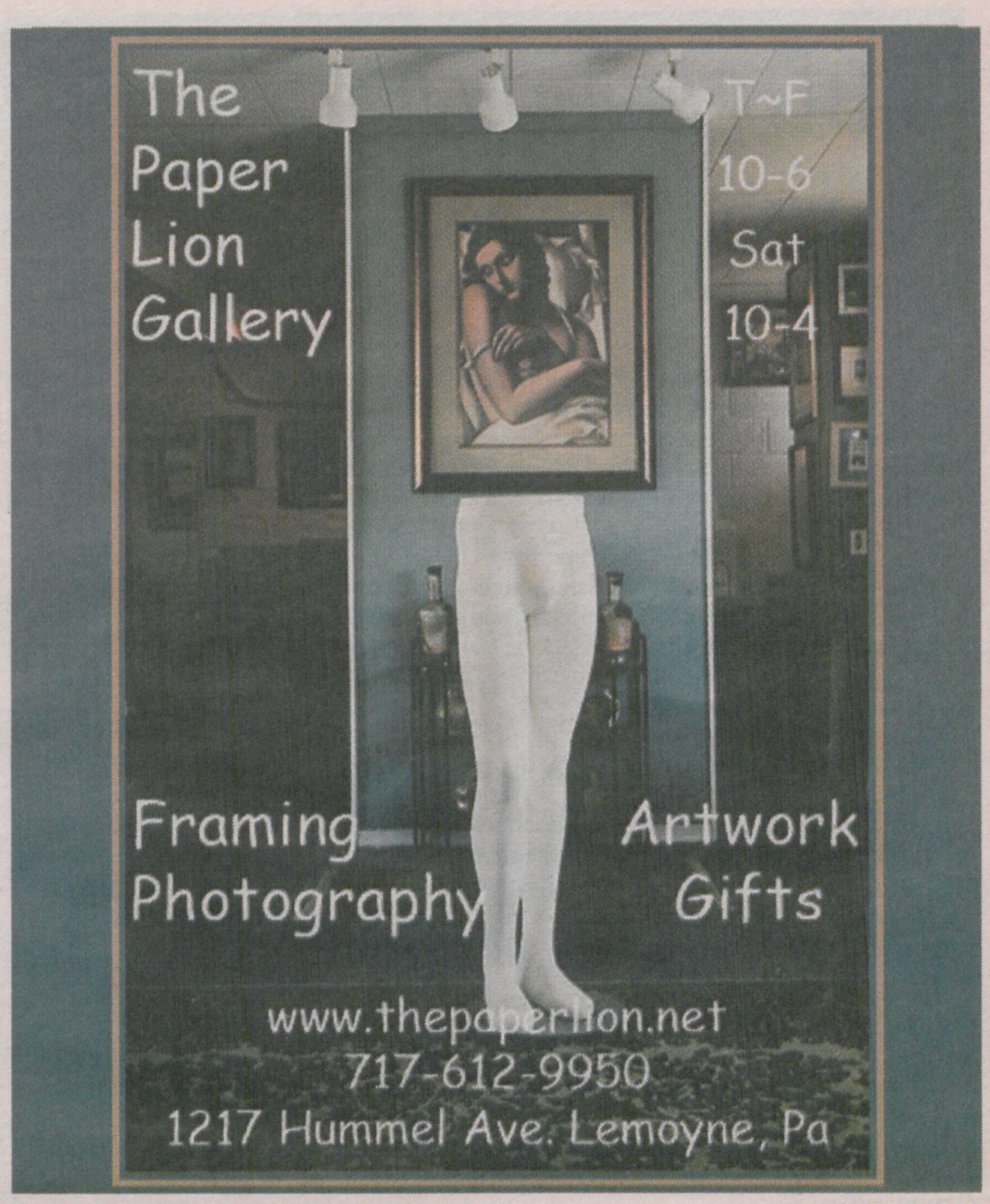

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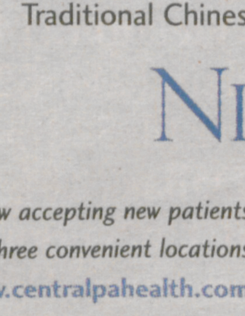

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Out of Town con'td

Collection of Asian Art, and Nasher Sculpture Center are also all well worth visiting. And in 2009, the Winspear Opera House will open here - this architectural gem will host the Dallas Opera, Texas Ballet Theater, and nationally touring theater productions.

Shop your heart out at the NorthPark Center, Highland Park Village, and West Village

There are few cities in America with a more extensive selection of high-end shopping districts than Dallas, where plenty of retail adventures await. If you're a fan of glitzy indoor malls, head to the NorthPark Center, which is home to such venerable brands as Barneys New York, Bulgari, Diesel, Kate Spade, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, and True Religion. This place is humongous - you could spend an entire weekend here.

An even ritzier option is Highland Park Village, which anchors Dallas's wealthiest residential neighborhood. Shops and restaurants are housed inside elegant Spanish Colonial-style buildings with red-tile roofs, and shaded sidewalks line the neighborhood's bustling streets. Shopping highlights include Carolina Herrera, Chanel Boutique, Frederic Fekkai, Ralph Lauren, and Rugby. You can break things up with lunch at Patrizio, which serves fresh pastas, pizzas, and salads.

A third retail destination of note is Uptown's "new urbanist" community, West Village, which was developed as a mixed-use, residential-retail-entertainment district in 2000. This trendy, walking-friendly neighborhood with a sizable GLBT population is accessed by the McKinney Avenue Trolley and has a number of intriguing shops and boutiques, including Cork wine shop, J'Adore Paris, Lucky Brand Jeans, Q Shirtmakers, and West Village Bicycles. You can also catch a feature film at Magnolia Theatre, enjoy a sweet treat at Paciugo Gelato, and relax over a leisurely dinner of Italian-inspired seafood at Pescabar.

Jog or bike the Katy Trail

A former rail line that runs through the center of the city, with convenient access to Oak Lawn and Uptown, the Katy Trail extends for 3.5 miles from downtown's Victory Park area to the trendy Mockingbird Station area near Southern Methodist University. This landscaped, concrete pathway is ideal for biking, inline skating, and jogging - a perfect venue for working off all that delicious and rich local cuisine you're likely to sample while in Dallas.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Alexandre's (214-559-0720, www.alexandres.com). Caven Enterprises (214-559-4190, www.caven.com). Cyclone Anaya's Mexican Kitchen (214-420-0030). Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau (800-C-DALLAS, www.visitdallas.com). Eatzi's (214-526-1515, www.eatzis.catertrax.com). Havana (214-526-9494). Monica's Aca Y Alla (214-748-7140, www.monicas.com). Paciugo Gelato (214-219-2665, www.paciugo.com). Patrizio (214-522-7878, www.patrizios.net). Pescabar (214-522-3888, www.pescabar.com). Ritz-Carlton Dallas (214-922-0200, www.ritzcarlton.com). Round-Up Saloon (214-522-9611, www.roundupsaloon.com). Woody's (214-520-6629).

The Tartan Terrors Sat., Feb. 14 • 7:30pm
Haunting Highland melodies, energetic dancing and bawdy humor are all part of this riotous show, North America's Premier Celtic Event! Bring your lass or laddie for a special Valentine's Day dinner before the performance! Details online.

DrumLine LIVE Wed., Feb. 25 • 7:30pm
This colorful, high-energy spectacular showcases talented musicians from America's top Black colleges and universities featuring an explosive percussion showdown! Pre-show dinner info available online.

Altar Boyz: The award winning musical comedy Sun., Mar. 8 • 7:30pm
It would be a sin to miss this lighthearted spoof of boy bands and religion. This winner of Best Off-Broadway Musical was composed by York County's own Michael Patrick Walker. Signing provided for hearing impaired. **rabbittransit** shuttle available.

One Night of Queen by Gary Mullen & The Works Sat., Mar. 21 • 7:30pm
Experience a live Queen concert from Freddie Mercury's onstage strutting and Brian May's soaring lead guitar to the flashing lights, haze and effects. This show will rock you – guaranteed! Sponsored by Stoudt Advisors

Ain't Misbehavin' Thur., Apr. 30 • 7:30pm
American Idol's Ruben Studdard and Frenchie Davis star in this rollicking, Tony Award-winning Best Musical showcasing the music of Fats Waller. Pre-show dinner info available online. Sponsored by Fulton Bank

k.d. lang Fri., May 1 • 7:30pm
Satisfy your *Constant Craving* for music that touches your soul with an intoxicating performance by this passionate, velvet-voiced singer. Pre-show dinner option available.
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Talking Can Only Make It Better

By Ted Martin

Like a vast number of you, the Board of Directors of the Central PA LGBT Center Coalition watched the results of the election carefully. Of course, many of us were dismayed to see the results coming in for the various anti-Gay ballot measures put before the voters in four states. They were like hard unexpected blows as they rained down. First Florida, then Arkansas, then Arizona, and then, California. Board members have professed to have been confused, angry and exhausted by it all.

It only got worse as we all started to understand the demographic results of who voted for these measures. Again and again and again, the results showed all the bigotry and hatred that has become the calling card of several religious denominations, but the results coming in from other groups - primarily the minority communities - certainly made us take immediate notice. This was unexpected, and caught most of us completely off-guard. Needless to say, in the analysis of the past few weeks this wave caught everyone off-guard.

To be honest, we are working to be thoughtful in our response. We are avoiding pointing fingers, and instead trying to find solutions. We know there are many allies in all of these communities and are equally well-aware that it is very dangerous to paint everyone with the same brush. We don't like it when it is done to us, so why should we engage in such broad strokes?

So here is what we think and suggest. We as gay people need to do MUCH more talking and communicating to faith organizations and other communities like never before. Passage of all these measures did one scary thing. It gave anti-gay groups a roadmap on how to get things done. This, in and of itself, is terrifying.

In the next few months and years we hope to avoid such ugliness happening here, so look to the Coalition to find unique ways for us to increase our dialogues with other communities. We intend to find ways to talk to groups that need conversation and find ways of outreach to religious organizations and congregations that rarely if ever hear our point of view. In 2009, it is our intent to reach out and initiate conversation. It is the only way things will continue to get better, and in a larger sense, something that should have started a long, long time ago.

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Dan Miller Hosts "Milk" Screening

Dan Miller

Openly gay Harrisburg City Councilman Dan Miller is hosting a screening of Gus Van Sant's "Milk" at Midtown Cinema January 15. After moving to San Francisco, the middle-aged New Yorker, Harvey Milk, became a gay rights activist and city politician. On his third attempt, Milk was elected to San Francisco's Board of Supervisors in 1977, making him the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in the US.

The cost is $25 per person prepaid and $30 at the door with proceeds to benefiting Friends of Dan Miller. There will be a reception prior to the movie and several "Milk" items (t-shirt, hat, framed poster) will be given away in a drawing of all pre-paid attendees. Make checks payable to Friends of Dan Miller, 701 N 2nd St, HBG Pa 17102. If you want more info call 717-234-2250 x104 or email alex@friendsofdanmiller.com.

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Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Networks

The Gibson House Bed & Breakfast, Hershey, hosted 30+ members and guests of the Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Dec. 10.

Frank Pizzoli & Russ Boggs

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Winter HeARTS Festival: Film, Chorus, Comedy, Art Auction & All the Kings Men

For 2009, the region's premiere glbt fundraising event, Winter HeARTS Festival, is joined by the most community-based organizations in its short, three year history.

"This round Winter HeARTS Festival is a collaborative effort between Common Roads and The Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition. We've involved Harrisburg Men's Chorus, Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, Positive Opportunities which is producing the film event, Club XS is hosting the comedy show and ball, Central PA Pride is hosting an art auction, and Planned Parenthood of Central PA's project The Curve is presenting All the Kings Men," says festival organizer extraordinaire Greg King.

The event runs on various dates and locations from Jan. 17 until Feb. 21 and is coordinated through a central box Office 717-910-0204. Proceeds benefit Common Roads, the LGBT Community Center Coalition and the organizations producing the events on behalf of their own organizations.

Check www.winterartsfestival.com for latest updates.

January Calendar

Jan. 17 & 18 - Harrisburg Men's Chorus, Sat. January 17, 8 p.m.; Sun. January 18, 2 p.m. at Rose Lehrman Arts Center, HACC main Campus, Tickets $15.00.

Jan. 24 - Rainbow Shorts: A One Day Festival of LGBT Short Films, Jan. 24, 1-4 p.m., Allen Theater & MJ's Coffeehouse, Annville, Tickets $20 advance, $25 door. See separate story on Page 15 for full details.

Jan. 31 - Music for a Midwinter's Night, a joint concert of Harrisburg Men's Chorus and Central PA's Womyn's Choruses, Sat., Jan. 31, 8 p.m. at Vision of Hope MCC,130 E. Main Street, Mountville, PA. Tickets $25, includes wine and hors d'oeurve reception at 7 p.m. hosted by Pride Fest of Central PA with a Silent Art Auction to benefit Pride Fest.

February Calendar

Feb. 14 – Official Winter HeARTS Party Feb. 14 at Club XS, York, PA - Winter Arts Wisecracks, a comedy show at 8 p.m. featuring Ant the Comic and Jeanie McNulty, followed by The Winter HeARTS Ball 10 p.m. – 2 a.m. The Winter HeARTS Ball is everyone's chance to show their own artistic flair on the dance floor at Club XS and to wrap up the winter celebration. The Queen of Winter HeARTS is crowned just in time to preside over the Ball with a celebratory performance. You will not want to miss Colton Ford's midnight arrival and performance of numbers from his debut pop/dance album, "Tug of War." Ticket prices: $150 for a 4-seat cabaret table or $35 general SRO admission. Both tickets include admission to the Winter HeARTS Ball. Tickets to the Ball are $15.

Feb. 22 - Planned Parenthood of Central PA will present "All The King's Men" on Sat., Feb. 21, 7 p.m. at The Pullo Family Performing Arts Center, Penn State York, 1031 Edgecomb Ave, York, PA. Tickets are $40 for preferred seating, $20 general admission,$5 for students.

Carlisle Events

Carlisle Events Goes Green in 2009

Carlisle Events is going green in 2009! By introducing a green classification for showfield participants registering for six of the eight Carlisle Events specialty shows, Carlisle Events hopes to encourage enthusiasts of green and high-mileage vehicles to show off their passion for green machines. The green classification was created to give a home to green vehicles utilizing new fuel efficient technologies including hydrogen fuel cell, electric, gas-electric hybrids, biodiesel and clean diesel vehicles. Awards will be given to the top 3 vehicles registered in the green class at Carlisle Performance and Style – May 8-10, Carlisle Import/Kit-Replicar Nationals – May 15-17, Carlisle All-Ford Nationals – June 5-7, Carlisle All-GM Nationals – June 26-28, Carlisle All-Chrysler Nationals – July 10-12 and the Carlisle All-Truck Nationals August 7-9.

Lancaster Events

Sunday Market Every Week

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Bring yourself, family, friends to the 300 Block of North Queen Street in Downtown Lancaster and discover the new Sunday Market @ Building Character, as well as great shopping at oodles of delightful stores. Sunday Market runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking area outside the store. Look for a smattering of interesting finds, including antiques, collectibles, artists' handiwork and other delightful treasures. And don't miss delicious treats from Nick's Pizza, famous BBQ from Catering Concepts Unlimited and sweet creations from pastry chef Eric Moshier. Vendor spaces available by calling 394-7201, or info@buildingcharacter.biz. Info: http://www.buildingcharacter.biz/assembly.

Social Organizations & Recreational Clubs

Gay & Lesbian Artisan Pride

Discuss topics important to today's gay artist, Mentoring and nuturing growth of "Up Coming" and amateur artists, Promote art awareness within our own community, Creating and Coordinating group shows. Please email or call with interest/Questions/Comments.
Phone: (717)732-0233
Contact: Michael Reed
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Calls and Emails Can be made Days/Evenings
Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball

3rd and Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland.

Harrisburg Ladies Night Out
Cost: $2.50
PO Box 266
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL

HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women. Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region

Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
3623 Green Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Wheelchair Accessible: no
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses, call for
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg, Pa.
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-2127
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality

Shippensburg University Cumberland
Union Building
Box 89
Shippensburg, Pa 17265
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club

Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears

PO Box 61478 Harrisburg, PA
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: secretarysvbears@yahoo.com or info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc

The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401
HARRISBURG, PA 17108-0401
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League

The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle

c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Susquehanna Service Dogs Versatile and Vital

By Frank Pizzoli

Founded in 1993, Susquehanna Service Dogs has placed more than 157 dogs. The specially trained dogs help individuals live fuller lives by providing assistance with hearing, balance, therapy, companionship, and daily activities.

Service dogs typically assist a person with a disability. Because of the broad variety of potential physical disabilities, each dog is custom-trained for the particular needs of the specific human partner; however, all dogs are trained in basic behaviors in and service dog tasks. For example, a trained dog has basic obedience skills like sit, stay, come, down, stand, heel.

A service dog can be taught to respond to voice commands, to hand signals, or to an augmentative speech device. Dogs can retrieve dropped items, things under chairs, drinks from the refrigerator, to even clothes out of the drier.

"Currently we have 116 teams – a dog and a person - still working," says Nancy Fierer, director of Susquehanna Service Dogs, a program of Harrisburg-based Keystone Children & Family Services. Deaths and old age of the dogs and the partners have brought us sadly to this number, she explains.

"It costs us $20,000 to train and place a dog," Fierer says. The cost is so high because of the number of staff and staff hours that goes into caring, training and teaching.

The cost to individuals is not as high. "Most of our clients in Pennsylvania pay the minimum of $500. We do have a $5,000 fee-for-service but people who cannot afford this and live in the state are eligible for scholarship aid of $4,500," Fiere says. The service wants people to receive a dog regardless of their ability to pay. "$5,000 is a lot of money, especially to those living on very limited incomes. We do place some dogs out of state and these people must pay the fee for service of $5,000," she explains.

Volunteers are the glue holding together the program. "We have more than 200 volunteers who work with us regularly as puppy raisers, puppy sitters, kennel sitters and special volunteer trainers," Fierer says. The service also has people who help with fundraisers such as Black Tie & Tails, PawsAbilties and Walk for a Healthy Community. "We even have some that just help with office work. We could not do want we do without this awesome people," she says gratefully.

Susquehanna Service Dogs is fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International and a full voting member. The local service is so well known that it mentors newer programs and shares information and dogs. "We always need support, especially money, and we need more puppy raisers," Fierer says.

Contact: Nancy Fierer, 717-599-5920; nfierer@keystonehumanservices.org

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